

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2 (withdrawn).

Claim 3 (previously presented): A slurry comprising from about 50 to about 80% by weight of substantially spherical alkali metal bicarbonate particles, said particles having a median particle size of from about 0.2 to about 50.0 μm and a surface area of from about 120 to about 140 cm^3/g , dispersed in a liquid medium, wherein the slurry has a loose bulk density of about 1.40 to about 1.60 grams per mL and a Zeta potential of about 2 to about 11 mV, wherein the slurry is stable and is prepared in the absence of a suspending aid.

Claim 4 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate particles have a median particle size of from about 0.2 to about 25.0 μm .

Claim 5 (original): The slurry of claim 4, wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate particles have a median particle size of from about 0.5 to about 1.0 μm .

Claim 6 (previously presented): The slurry of claim 5, wherein the slurry comprises from about 60 to 75% by weight of alkali metal bicarbonate and from about 20% to about 40% by weight of liquid medium, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The slurry of claim 4 3, wherein the slurry comprises from about 60 to about 75% by weight of alkali metal bicarbonate and from about 25 to about 40% by weight of liquid medium, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry.

Claim 8 (original): The slurry of claim 7, wherein the slurry comprises from about 65 to about 72% by weight of alkali metal bicarbonate and from about 28 to about 45% by weight of liquid medium, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry.

Claim 9 (original): The slurry of claim 8, wherein the slurry comprises about 70% by weight of alkali metal bicarbonate and about 30% by weight of liquid medium, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry.

Claim 10 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the liquid medium is water.

Claim 11 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate particles are sodium bicarbonate particles.

Claim 12 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate particles have an IR spectra shown in Fig. 1.

Claim 13 (original): The slurry of claim 3, wherein the slurry has a viscosity of less than about 1,000 cP.

Claim 14 (original): A method of using the slurry of claim 3 comprising (1) incorporating said slurry with other materials to form a bicarbonate containing product selected from the group consisting of a dialyzate, a toothpaste, a personal cleanser, a chewing gum, an antacid, a mouthwash, a deodorant, a detergent, a skin care product, a household cleanser, an industrial cleaner, a blasting medium, an animal feed product, a baking product and a pesticidal product by dissolving from about 10.00 to about 12.00% by weight of the slurry in about 88 to 92% by weight of additional water, based upon 100% total weight of the slurry and additional water to form an aqueous dilution, and (2) further incorporating said other materials.

Claim 15 (amended): The method of claim 14, wherein said ~~solution~~ bicarbonate containing product is a dialyzate.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein said slurry is diluted.

Claims 17-22 (withdrawn).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A product comprising the slurry of claim 3, wherein the product is selected from the group consisting of a dialyzate, a toothpaste, a personal cleanser, a chewing gum, an antacid, a ~~mouthwash~~ mouthwash, a deodorant, a detergent, a skin care product, a household cleaner, an industrial cleaner, a blasting medium, an animal feed product, a baking product and a pesticidal product.

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Claim 24 (previously presented): The product of claim 23, further comprising an adjuvant selected from the group consisting of fragrances, colorants, surfactants, buffers, abrasives, antioxidants, anticorrosives, bacteriocides, fungicides, antiseptics, astringents, humectants, tartar control agents, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 25 (original): The product of claim 23, wherein the liquid medium is selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, glycols, and mixtures thereof.